

LUD 5582.1 DIV (10019655)IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43. (Canceled)

- Claim 44. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting interleukin-9 (IL-9) activity in a subject suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of excess lymphomagenesis, intestinal mastocytosis, overexpansion of $\beta 1$ lymphocytes, and bronchial hyperresponsiveness~~in need thereof~~, comprising administering an amount of a conjugate of IL-9 and a carrier to said subject, in an amount sufficient to induce production of antibodies which bind to and neutralize IL-9, and to alleviate said condition.
- Claim 45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein said carrier is ovalbumin, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, acetylated bovine serum albumin, or Bordetella pertussis toxin.
- Claim 46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said ovalbumin is maleimide substituted ovalbumin, conjugated to IL-9 via a free SH group in said IL-9.
- Claim 47. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said carrier is cross-linked to IL-9 via glutaraldehyde.
- Claim 48. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein said subject is a mammal.
- Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 44, comprising administering said conjugate to said subject at intervals of about 2 weeks, for a period of about 6 weeks.
- Claim 50. (Original) The method of claim 44, comprising administering said conjugate in an amount ranging from about 1 μ g to about 10 μ g.
- Claim 51. (Canceled)
- Claim 52. (Canceled)

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- Claim 53. (Currently amended) A method for inducing an elevated titer of an antibody which is specific for and neutralizes interleukin-9 (IL-9), comprising administering to ~~said~~ a subject an amount of a conjugate of IL-9 and a carrier in an amount sufficient to provoke production of antibodies which are specific to IL-9 ~~which neutralize it~~, wherein the elevated titer of said antibody ~~presents~~ persists for at least six months following immunization.
- Claim 54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of ovalbumin keyhole limpet hemocyanin, acetylated bovine serum albumin, and Bortadella pertussis toxin.
- Claim 55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said ovalbumin is maleimide substituted ovalbumin, conjugated to IL-9 via a free SH group in said IL-9.
- Claim 56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein said carrier is cross linked to IL-9 via gluteraldehyde.
- Claim 57. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said subject is a mammal.
- Claim 58. (Original) The method of claim 53, comprising administering said conjugate to said subject at intervals of about 2 weeks, for a period of about 6 weeks.
- Claim 59. (Original) The method of claim 53, comprising administering said conjugate in an amount ranging from about 1 μ g to about 10 μ g.
- Claim 60. (Canceled)
- Claim 61. (Canceled)
- Claim 62. (Canceled)
- Claim 63. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is bronchial hyperresponsiveness.

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- Claim 64. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is excess lymphomagenesis.
- Claim 65. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is intestinal mastocytosis.
- Claim 66. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is overexpansion of $\beta 1$ lymphocytes.
- Claim 67. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said conjugate comprises IL-9 and ovalbumin.